

Application No. 10/748493
Page 2

Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2B-10827-US01

Amendments To The Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-58 and 60 without prejudice.

1-58. (Canceled)

59. (Currently Amended) A method of cleaning or electropolishing a stent formed from an alloy comprising at least one noble metal and at least one non-noble metal, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a tubular member;
- b) laser cutting a stent pattern in said tubular member to form a stent;
- c) electropolishing said stent in an aqueous acidic mixture comprising at least one chelating or complexing agent, said chelating agent comprising at least one sulfur atom; and
- d) subjecting said acidic bath mixture to a multiple pulse waveform.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Original) The method of claim 59 further comprising the step of soaking said stent in an acidic mixture of fluoroboric and nitric acids.

62. (Original) The method of claim 59 further comprising the step of etching said stent in an electrolytic acidic bath comprising at least one chelating or complexing agent having at least one sulfur ion before said electropolishing step.

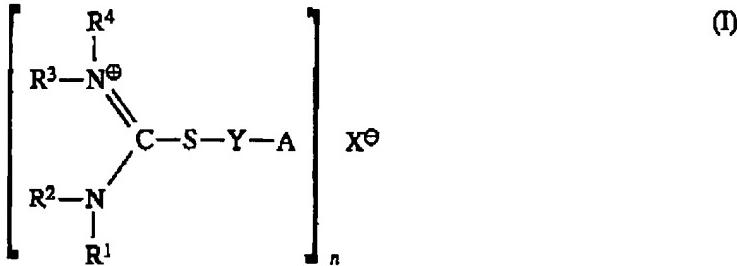
63. (Original) The method of claim 59 wherein said multiple pulse waveform is a periodic reverse multiple pulse waveform.

64. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein said chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of thiourea, derivatives of thiourea, thiouronium salts, thiocarboxylic acids or salts thereof and mixtures thereof.

65. (New) The method of claim 64 wherein said chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of thiouronium salts having the general formula:

*Application No. 10/748493
Page 3*

*Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2B-10827-US01*



where

R₁ to R₄ are each hydrogen, C₁ - C₈ - alkyl, which may be carboxyl-, C₁ - C₄ - alkoxy carbonyl- or cyano-substituted, C₂ - C₁₂ - alkenyl, C₂ - C₁₂ - alkynyl, C₅ - C₈ cycloalkyl, C₇ - C₁₂ phenylalkyl or phenyl which may be substituted by one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁ - C₄ alkyl, C₁ - C₄ alkoxy, halogen, hydroxyl, phenyl and C₁ - C₄ alkoxy carbonyl;

Y is a chemical bond or linear or branched alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene having in each case up to 20 carbon atoms;

A is hydrogen or a group of the formula --COH, --COR₅, --COOH, --COOR₅, --CONR₆R₇, --COCH₂COOR₅, --OCOH, --OCOR₅, --NR₆COR₅, --OR₅, --SO₂R₅, --SO₂OH, --SO₂OR₅, --PO(OH)₂, --PO(OH)(OR₅), --PO(OR₅)₂, OPO(OH)₂, --OPO(OH)(OR₅) or --OPO(OR₅)₂, where R₅ is C₁ - C₁₂ alkyl, C₂ - C₁₂ alkenyl, C₂ - C₁₂ alkynyl, C₅ - C₈ cycloalkyl, C₇ - C₁₂ phenylalkyl or phenyl which may be substituted by one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁ - C₄ alkyl, halogen, hydroxyl, phenyl and C₁ - C₄ alkoxy carbonyl, and R₆ and R₇ are each hydrogen or C₁ - C₄ alkyl;

n is from 1 to 4; and

X is an n-valent inorganic or organic anion that promotes solubility in water.

66. (New) The method of claim 64 wherein said chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of N-methylthiourea, N,N'-dimethylthiourea, N,N,N',N'-tetramethylthiourea, N-ethylthiourea, N,N'-diethylthiourea, N,N,N',N'-tetraethylthiourea, N-phenylthiourea, N,N'-diphenylthiourea, N-phenyl-N-methylthiourea, N-phenyl-N'-methylthiourea, N,N'-

Application No. 10/748493
Page 4

Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2B-10827-US01

dibutylthiourea, N-benzylthiourea, N-allylthiourea, N,N'-dicyclohexylthiourea and mixtures thereof.

67. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein said stent is formed from an alloy comprising at least one noble metal and at least one non-noble metal.

68. (New) The method of claim 67 wherein said at least one noble metal is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, platinum, iridium, rhodium, palladium, osmium, and ruthenium.

69. (New) The method of claim 67 wherein said at least one noble metal is a platinum group metal selected from the group consisting of platinum, iridium, rhodium, palladium, osmium and ruthenium.

70. (New) The method of claim 67 where said non-noble metal is a transition metal.

71. (New) The method of claim 70 wherein said transition metal is selected from the group consisting of tantalum, iron, nickel, cobalt, chromium, titanium, hafnium, niobium, iron, molybdenum, tungsten, zirconium, rhenium, and alloys thereof.

72. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein said non-noble metal is selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, cobalt-chromium alloys, and nickel-titanium alloys.

73. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein said stent is formed from an alloy which is a platinum enriched stainless steel alloy.

74. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein said stent is formed from an alloy comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of platinum, chromium, nickel, iron and mixtures thereof.